

# A Career of Service

David L. Callies\*

Since his recent retirement, it is hard to think of our law school community without Dick Miller. Not only is he the last of our links to the founding of the William S. Richardson School of Law in 1973, but he was instrumental in conceiving our innovative and—at the time—national trendsetting legal writing program. A tireless advocate for the growth and development of the law school, Dick Miller has served as Associate Dean and Dean of the law school, the first faculty advisor to our law review, and the first Chair of our Pacific and Asian Legal Studies Program (PALS). Indeed, it was through his prodigious efforts that the school began its first formal faculty exchange in Asia, with Hiroshima University in 1985, an exchange which continues with visiting scholars today.

Dick Miller got his legal education in the traditional LL.B. program at Boston University where he excelled not only in the classroom but also as editor-in-chief of the law review. This penchant for excellence he brought with him to Hawai'i. He helped to establish, and served as the first faculty advisor to, the University of Hawai'i Law Review in 1978, insisting that it maintain the same high standards to which he was accustomed in his own legal education. A strong supporter of the use of the Socratic method, closed-book examinations and vigorous grading, the school owes much of its reputation today to his establishment and maintenance of academic standards, both as professor and dean.

But it is Dick Miller's work in establishing the basis for his cherished PALS program that is probably his most enduring contribution. At no small cost to his other research interests, Dick became a tireless advocate for such a program to provide research, teaching and exchange opportunities between the law school and similar institutions in Asia and the Pacific Islands. Dick Miller's ceaseless prodding and promoting resulted in the Hiroshima exchange, during which virtually every member of our faculty spent from a few weeks to a few months with Hiroshima University's faculty of law. His friendship with that department's then Dean, Hiroyuki Hata, made mutual research visits possible well after the initial program grant expired in the late 1980's. The example which Dick Miller set is in a large part responsible for the law school's later study and exchange relationships, both formal and informal, with Ritsumeikan

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\* Benjamin A. Kudo Professor of Law, and (for better or worse) one of Professor Miller's early recruits to the law school faculty, for which generations of law students hold him accountable.

University, Nihon University, and Meijo University, as well as training programs and exchanges with institutions in China. Later, Dick became particularly interested in and involved with institutions in New Zealand as well, arranging for conferences in Hawai'i featuring former Prime Minister Palmer, and visiting New Zealand several times himself. Dick also actively participated in and encouraged teaching and research in many Pacific Island states, enabling many of the faculty to undertake judicial training and field research projects in American Samoa, Fiji, the Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Finally, towards the end of his distinguished career, Dick Miller became a tireless advocate for insurance reform and a free press. His articles in pursuit of both causes appeared regularly in the opinion to the editor columns of our daily newspapers, and he chaired and appeared on many distinguished panels, with the likes of *New York Times* columnist Anthony Lewis. His comparative law articles again appeared in law reviews and journals. Dick also became expert on—and a tireless promoter of—computer-assisted legal research and writing, leaving many of his younger colleagues in the cyberspace dust.

Dick Miller will never be absent from the law school, no matter where he hangs his trademark straw hat. That's a good thing for the law school, which owes him a debt of gratitude which will never be fully repaid.